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Tokyo TARAREBA GIRLS

AKIKO
HIGASHIMURA



tokyo
**TARAREBA
GIRLS**

2

**AKIKO
HIGASHIMURA**

TODAY'S RECOMMENDATIONS

ACT
5

THE DESERTER WOMAN

003

ACT
6

CONVEYOR-BELT SUSHI WOMAN

039

ACT
7

SOUSED MACKEREL WOMAN

079

ACT
8

PUNCH-DRUNK WOMEN

119

ACT
9

CHOCOLATE IS ALWAYS SWEET TO ME

160

ACT
24

BONUS COMIC

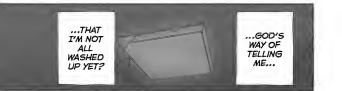
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...AT
OUR
GIRLS'
NIGHTS
OUT...

...EVEN
AFTER I
SPENT ALL
MY TIME...

IS THE
FACT THAT
NIGHTS
LIKE THIS
STILL
HAPPEN...



...THAT
I'M NOT
ALL
WASHED
UP YET?

...GOD'S
WAY OF
TELLING
ME...



...ARE YOU
NERVOUS?



HEY...

ACT

5

THE DESERTER WOMAN





ACT

5

THE DESERTER WOMAN



























I'VE
SPENT
SO MUCH
OF MY
TIME AT
THESE
GIRLS'
NIGHTS
OUT...

WHAT AM I
SUPPOSED
TO DO?



SO I
DON'T
KNOW
WHAT TO
DO NOW.

WAS HE
JUST
TEASING
AN OLDER
WOMAN?

WAS THAT
REALLY
JUST
UNDER-
THE-
COVERS
NEGOTIAT-
ING?

I DON'T
EVEN KNOW
IF CASES
LIKE THIS
ARE A
"THING"
OR NOT.

OR DID HE
HAVE SOME
FUN AT MY
EXPENSE?

OR
SIMPLY A
WHIM?

SO I
DON'T EVEN
KNOW HOW
TO MOVE
MY PIECES.





HE WAS GONE WHEN I WOKE UP, AND HE HASN'T CONTACTED ME SINCE...

NO, REALLY. THAT'S THE ONLY EXPLANATION I CAN THINK OF.

WHAT IF, WHAT IF... YOU LISTEN HERE, RINKO.



WHAT IF, WHAT IF... HE DIDN'T HAVE FUN AT YOUR EXPENSE!

RINKO!

THAT'S RIGHT, WHAT IF? WHAT IF?

HUH??



THAT'S RIGHT. IF HE WANTED TO FOOL AROUND, HE'D GO WITH A FRESH, YOUNG MODEL WHO'S RARING TO GO NO STRINGS ATTACHED!! WHAT IF! WHAT IF!

WHAT IF, WHAT IF... A 33-YEAR-OLD ISN'T THE TYPE A YOUNG, ATTRACTIVE MAN WOULD PICK FOR SOME FUN!!



WHY DID HE ...



WHY? THEN, WHAT?



WHAT IF, WHAT IF... WE'RE RIGHT THAT NO MATTER WHO YOU SLEEP WITH, IT'S NOT GOING TO GET YOU AHEAD.

HE REALLY WANTED ME TO SLEEP WITH HIM TO...

TH-THEN, WHAT?

EVEN IF HE GETS FAMOUS ENOUGH TO MAKE OUTRAGEOUS DEMANDS, HE'S NOT GONNA REQUEST YOU WRITE HIS SCRIPTS JUST BECAUSE YOU SLEPT WITH HIM. WHAT IF/ WHAT IF!

SPEED-
ING IN A
TAXI TO
GET TO
ME...

HE EVEN
CAME
ALL THE
WAY TO
HAKONE
...

SO
WHY?

MY
CAREER'S
GOING
DOWN-
HILL...

I DON'T
HAVE ANY
INFLUENCE
...

...YOUNG
OR
PRETTY?

...WITH
SOME-
ONE
LIKE ME,
WHO
ISN'T...

WHY
DID HE
DO IT
...

WHY, WHEN
THERE WAS
NOTHING TO
GAIN?

WHY
DID HE
SLEEP
WITH YOU?

I
THINK YOU
KNOW THE
ANSWER.
WHAT IF/
WHAT IF/

...RINKO...

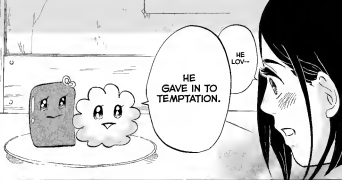
YOU
DON'T
MEAN
...

WAIT...

WHAT IF,
WHAT IF...
YOU LOOKED
FOR THE ANSWER
IN ALL THE LOVE
STORIES YOU'VE
WRITTEN OVER
THE YEARS.

WHY
DID HE
COME
ONTO
YOU?

WHAT IF,
WHAT IF...
THAT'S
RIGHT?





WHAT IF,
WHAT IF...
IT'S JUST
SOMETHING
THAT HAPPENS
WITH MEN?





SEE
YOU
THEN.

I'LL
BE ON
TIME NEXT
MONTH.

SORRY
I'M
LATE.



SIGH...
SHE
DRANK
EVEN
MORE...

HEY, I
WASN'T
WAITING
FOR
HIM! I
WASN'T
!!

HE
NEVER
SHOWED
UP, DID
HE?

...AFTER
THEY TOLD
ME IT
WAS JUST
A SPUR
OF THE
MOMENT
WHIM?

WHAT
COULD
I EVEN
SAY...



YOU
MEAN
BE-
CAUSE
IT'D BE
AWK-
WARD?

GAH!

...TO
NONE.

HE MAY
NEVER
COME
BACK...

THAT
WOULD
MAKE HIM
ABOUT
THE
LOWEST
OF THE
LOW.





YOU
KEEP
TALKING
LIKE
THAT
AND
YOU'RE
GONNA
HAVE
ONE
EMPTY
LIFE
AHEAD
OF
YOU,
KOYUKI!

HUUH
?!

I'D MUCH
RATHER
GET NO
ACTION THAN
SLEEP WITH A
MAN WHO RUNS
OFF WITHOUT A
WORD WHEN
IT'S OVER.

HUH?
NO
WAY!

...ISN'T
THAT
BETTER
THAN
NOTHING
?!

BUT...

I CAN'T
BELIEVE
THAT LITTLE
BUNT TOOK
ADVANTAGE
OF HER...

MAN...



SIMPLY
HAVING
SOMEONE,
ANYONE,
THROW YOU
A BONE IS
BETTER
THAN
NOTHING.

OR
ARE THERE
TIMES WHEN
SOMETHING
ISN'T
BETTER
THAN
NOTHING?

SOME-
THING
HAPPEN-
ING IS
BETTER
THAN
NOTHING.

ONE
MISSPENT
NIGHT WITH
A HOT GUY
IS BETTER
THAN
NOTHING.



I MAY BE
SINGLE AT
33, BUT AT
LEAST...

MAKING
A LIVING
DOING A
JOB I LIKE
IS BETTER
THAN
NOTHING.

LOOKING
BETTER
THAN THAT
WOMAN IS
BETTER
THAN
NOTHING.

...I'M NOT
SINGLE
OVER 40.
THAT'S
BETTER
THAN
NOTHING.

BUT NO
MATTER
HOW MANY
"BETTER'S
I COUNT UP,
IT DOESN'T
MAKE MY LIFE
ANY LESS
MISERABLE.



A
SIMPLE
WORD.

AN
OBVIOUS
WORD.

WHEN
YOU SAY
IT OUT
LOUD, IT
SOUNDS
STALE.

WE
KNEW
WHAT WE
WANTED
LONG
AGO.

THAT'S
RIGHT.

NO
MATTER
HOW MANY
"BETTERS"
THERE
ARE...

THEY
CAN'T ADD
UP TO
THAT ONE
THING.

"LOVE."

UNFOR-
TUNATELY
WHAT WE
WANT IS
PROBABLY
...

...LAST
NIGHT...

BUT...

...AND
PLENTY
OF WOMEN
CAN AS
WELL...

MEN CAN
DO THAT
WITHOUT
LOVE...

I
THOUGHT
I KNEW
THAT.



WHAT IF
I WERE
YOUNG
AND
PRETTY
ENOUGH
TO SUIT
HIM...

WHAT IF
I WERE
YOUNGER

...

...WHEN I
THOUGHT
I HAD
FOUND
LOVE.

...THERE
WAS ONE
MOMENT...
JUST ONE
MOMENT...

YEP, I'M
STILL JUST
A STUPID
WOMAN
PROPOSING
"WHAT-IFS."





THEY
MAY CALL
ME—A
STUPID
WOMAN—



"Unrequited
Love Sake"



BUT I
CAN'T
FORGET—
THAT
LOVE.

MY DAD
LOVES TO
SING IT...

IT'S SHIRO
AND'S "UN-
REQUITED
LOVE
SAKE."

WHAT'S
THIS?
WHO
SINGS
IT?



IT'S
TOUGH.
IT'S
TOUGH--



...BUT I
STILL WANT
TO SEE YOU
WHENEVER
I HEAR THE
HUMORS...

YOU
MAYBE
A LUMP-
BOY



IT'S THE
UNREQUITED
LOVE SAKE I
DRINK WHEN
IT'S TOO
HARD BEING
ALONE.



I'M NOT
DRINKING
THIS SAKE
BECAUSE I
WANT TO.

INTOXI-
CATING-
REGRET-
SEEPS-

IT SOUNDS
LIKE THEY'RE
REFERRING
TO US, SPE-
CIFICALLY.

TO- DA-
MY-
THESE
LYRICS
ARE HIT-
TING ME
PRETTY
HARD.

OH
NO.

WABLE-
WABLE-
WABLE

しる
しる
しる

昔う（ほど）木々が
私たちに響く
身にしみるのよ
INTOXICATING REGRET SEEPS
INTO MY SKIN

忘れ
た
こと
を
今日
この
瞬間
に
思い
出す
生活の
IN THIS
今日この瞬間は
ROUGH LIFE



DOES
THAT
MEAN
WE'RE
FINALLY
REACHING
THAT AGE?

...

I KNOW
WHAT
IT'S LIKE
TO "CRY
QUIETLY
INTO MY
GLASS OF
MEMO-
RIES."

I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT IT'S
LIKE TO
"WANT TO
SEE YOU
SO BAD I
TREMBLE,"
BUT...



...THE
LYRICS OF
THESE OLD
BALLADS
SPEAK
TO ME A
LOT MORE
THAN
MODERN
J-POP.

YOU
KNOW
...

DITTO.



I MEAN,
WHY ELSE
WOULD HE
SLEEP WITH
HER?

BUT
MAYBE
HE'S
INTO
MILFS!!

HE'S A
PERFORMER.
A MODEL...

THERE'S
NOTHING
SHE CAN
DO.

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?

WHADYA
THINK
RINKO'S
GONNA
DO?

...



IT'S JUST...
WHEN I LOOK
AT HER OVER
THERE, WITH HER
HEART IN PIECES,
I'M A LITTLE
JEALOUS— OH,
HOW DO I
PUT IT..

NO,
NOT
THAT!



HUH?
?

MAYBE,
BUT I'M
ACTUALLY
STARTING
TO GET
A LITTLE
JEALOUS.

BE-
CAUSE
SHE
SLEPT
WITH A
CELEB-
RITY??



DON'T YOU
REMEMBER
HOW MR.
OSUGI USED
TO SAY MEN
IN THE EN-
TERTAINMENT
INDUSTRY
TREAT
WOMEN LIKE
DISPOSABLE
TISSUES?

WELL, I
MEAN,
COME
ON...



I JUST SIT
AROUND EVERY
DAY WATCHING
GOSSIP GIRL
TO STIR UP MY
FEELINGS...

THERE'S
BEEN
NOTHING
TO MOVE
MY HEART
...

OH...



IN
FACT,
FOR
THE
PAST
FEW
YEARS
...

LATE-
LY...

SURE,
SHE'S
HAD IT
ROUGH,
BUT...

...I'VE
HAD
NOTHING.



I WANT
THE KIND
OF LOVE
THAT FEELS
LIKE YOUR
HEART'S
TEARING TO
BITS/ THE
KIND OF
LOVE THAT
MAKES YOU
THINK YOU
COULD JUST
DIE!

I
WANT
LOVE!

NO
WAY!

ALL
RIGHT, WHY
DON'T WE
MAKE THIS
BALLAD
DAY?



AT THIS
AGE, I DON'T
WANT TO GO
THROUGH
ANYTHING
PAINFUL.

SO, IT'S
BETTER
JUST TO BE
ALONE.



HUH?!

...PERSONALLY,
I'D RATHER
NOTHING
HAPPEN THAN
END UP LIKE
THAT.











DON'T GO
BLABBING
ABOUT IT TO
PEOPLE THE
VERY NEXT
DAY!



YOU
MUST'VE
HAD A
BLAST
GOSSIPING
ABOUT ME,
RIGHT?

YOU AND THE
REST OF YOUR
GIRLFRIENDS
WHO HAVE
NOTHING
BETTER
TO DO GET
TOGETHER
AND YAK ALL
NIGHT.

WHENEVER
ANYTHING
HAPPENS,
IT'S RIGHT
TO ONE
OF YOUR
"GIRLS"
NIGHTS
OUT."

ABOUT
HOW YOU
SLEPT
WITH ME.

THIS IS THE
PROBLEM
WITH YOUR
TYPE.









WHRRRRR
わーん

IT'S ALREADY
BEEN TEN
YEARS SINCE
I STARTED
COMPLAINING
ABOUT NEVER
MEETING ANY
MEN...



えー
めー

...JUST
LIKE THE
SEASONAL
RECOMMEND-
ATIONS...

IT
WOULD
BE MUCH
EASIER
IF...





ALTHOUGH
WE STILL
HAVEN'T
FIGURED
OUT IF HE
SIMPLY TOOK
ADVANTAGE
OF HER, OR IF
SOMETHING'S
GOING TO
HAPPEN
BETWEEN
THEM...

HEARING THAT
A YOUNG, HOT
MODEL WAS
BASICALLY
SERVED UP
ON A PLATE TO MY
GOOD FRIEND
AND FELLOW
MAN-DROUGHT
SUFFERER
RINKO WAS
QUITE A
SHOCK.

HERE'S
OUR
FREE
LUNCH
SPECIAL,
FISH
BROTH.

THEN
I COULD
JUST PICK
THE ONE WITH
THE HIGHEST
SALARY.









EEK!

IT WAS
TEN YEARS
AGO!!
THE SAME
YEAR MR.
HAYASAKA
PROPOSED
TO YOU!!

WAS IT
REALLY
THAT
LONG
AGO?

AN-
CIENT
HIS-
TORY? HUH?



DON'T
BRING UP
ANCIENT
HISTORY.

WHY
DIDN'T YOU
MARRY THAT
MUSICIAN?



YEAH,
YEAH.

KACCI,
SET IT
FOR ME!
*My
Laptop*

THAT'S
FROM
THE
OFFICE!

WHOA!

*BUM-
BUM-
BUM!*



THAT'S
RIGHT! AS
TERRIFYING
AS IT IS,
THEY'RE
ALMOST ALL
FROM AT
LEAST TEN
YEARS AGO!

THEN OUR
MEMORIES
OF PAST
RELATION-
SHIPS ARE...

NOW!



I'D
LIKE TO
COME OVER
SO RINKO
CAN LOOK
AT IT AND
WE CAN GET
IT BACK TO
THE CLIENT.

WE'VE GOT
A PROJECT
THAT HAS
TO BE
CHECKED
IMMEDI-
ATELY.

THIS
IS HER
ASSIST-
ANT
MAMI.

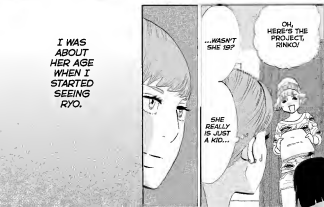
OH, I'M
SORRY.
RINKO
MUST BE
GETTING
HER NAILS
DONE
RIGHT
NOW,
HUH?



STOP
THAT,
YOU
IDIOT!

HELLO?
THIS IS
RINKO
KAMATA,
THE
WOMAN
WITH A
BROKEN
HEART.

*Square
me the
shaped
years!*







I WANTED TO
TELL YOU HOW
I FEEL BEFORE
NOSTRADAMUS
DESTROYS THE
WORLD...



"AN ANGEL
APPEARED
TO THIS
LOSER ON
JUDGMENT
DAY"...

...GREAT
TITLE...
THAT'S A
REALLY
...



"AN
ANGEL
APPEARED
TO THIS
LOSER ON
JUDGMENT
DAY"...

SO I
WROTE
A SONG
FOR YOU.

...I
CALL
IT.



AS LONG
AS I'M WITH
HER, I DON'T
CARE IF
THE WORLD
ENDS! MY
ANGEL!

OH,
NOSTRADA-
MUS! WHEN
THE TIME
COMES, I
WANNA BE
WITH HER!

YEAH!

DID
YOU EVER
MAYBE KIND
OF THINK
ABOUT WHO
YOU WANNA
BE WITH
WHEN THE
TIME COMES?

OH,
TELL ME
NOS-
TRACA-
MUS!



BWAAW

BWAAW



I'LL
SING IT
JUST FOR
YOU.

I'LL
SING
IT...
...RIGHT
HERE.



TWANKS



THE
WORLD
DIDN'T
END.



IN FACT,
IT WAS
CHOSEN
TO HOST
THE
OLYMPICS
A SECOND
TIME.

AND OF
COURSE,
TOKYO
DIDN'T
END
EITHER.

CONGRATULATIONS
TO TOKYO
THE NEXT
HOST OF THE
OLYMPIC GAMES



AND
BEFORE
I KNEW
IT, I WAS
33.

I COULDN'T
BE ONE
OF THOSE
ADMIRABLE
WOMEN WHO
SUPPORTS
HER BROKE
MAN WHILE
HE CHASES
HIS DREAMS.

I COULDN'T
IMAGINE
MARRYING
A BROKE
MUSICIAN
LIKE HIM.

I HAVEN'T
SEEN HIM
SINCE.

I WENT
OUT WITH
RYO FOR
FIVE
YEARS,
AND THEN
WE BROKE
UP.



IF HE'D
HIT IT
BIG WHEN
HE WAS
YOUNGER
LIKE THIS
GUY...

IF RYO'S
MUSIC
CAREER
HAD
WORKED
OUT...



LOOK AT
THIS! I
ACTUALLY
MANAGED TO
BUY SOME
POPCORN!
THERE
WASN'T A
LINE TODAY!

SORRY FOR
BARGING
INTO YOUR
SALON
EARLIER!

OH,
POPCORN
IS THE
BIG THING
RIGHT
NOW...

GAO'S
PRAISING
SHORTS
!

KAORI!

OH!

GAO!

...HE'D
PROBABLY
BE
MARRIED
RIGHT
NOW.







I WAS ALWAYS RUNNING AROUND ON TOP OF THE WORLD LIKE THAT.

AND I'M SURE I USED TO BE THE SAME WAY.



Mr. Hayashida knows what to pick.
The two of them.

SHE'S A BIT OF A SLAMMER-MOUTH, BUT... YEAH... SHE'S A GOOD KID...



...WOULD WRITE BRILLIANT SONGS WITH THE POWER OF LOVE AND FILL UP BUDOUKAN ARENA.

IT DIDN'T MATTER THAT WE HAD NO MONEY.

WHEN WE FIRST MOVED IN TOGETHER, RYO AND I PARTIED EVERY DAY.



...AND HE WAS STILL A POOR MUSICIAN.

BUT YEARS WENT BY...

AS LONG AS WE LOVED EACH OTHER, WE COULD OVERCOME ANY PROBLEM.

I REALLY BELIEVED THE DAY WOULD COME WHEN RYO...





It's
hot...

OH? BUT
YOURS
SEEMS
TO BE
WORKING
FINE.

THE
AIR
CONDITIONER
IN OUR
SPACE
HAS
BEEN
ACTING
UP ALL
DAY...

EXCUSE
ME.

KER-
CHUNK



...AND,
WELL, YOU
KNOW
WHAT
HAPPENS
...

...GOT
DRUNK
ON WINE
I WASN'T
USED TO
DRINK-
ING...

ON A
WHIM,
I HAD
DINNER
WITH
HIM...

A
DOCTOR
...

AND MY EYES
CREPT TO THE
COSMETIC
SURGEON WHO
SHARED A
BUILDING WITH
THE NAIL SALON
I WORKED AT...



THAT
SAME
OLD,
STALE
STORY.

THE
END.

AND RYO
SAW MY
PHONE.







HUH?

I THINK THEY'LL PLAY IT. I DOUBT THEY'D INVITE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE SHOW IF THEY WEREN'T GOING TO.

I MEAN, IT'S THEIR NEWEST SONG, SO THEY'VE GOTTA, RIGHT?

MR. HAYASHI SAKAI DO YOU THINK THEY'LL PLAY IT AT THE CONCERT?

EVERYBODY'S SOOO GONNA BE TALKING ABOUT IT! I WONDER IF THEY'LL SING IT ON THE MUSIC SHOWS.

BUMKEY'S DOESN'T DO MANY TV APPEARANCES.

...THE BAND FROM THAT VIDEO?

YOU MEAN ...



FLAP TO D



I INVITED KAORI BECAUSE SHE'S A BUMKEY'S FAN, SO LET'S ALL GO TOGETHER!!

YOU'LL COME TOO, RIGHT?

WHAT? CONCERT? YOU'RE GOING?



WE DON'T KNOW EITHER !!

HOW DID YOU GET YOURSELVES INTO THIS SITUATION?

HUH?

酒処

PUB













THE
PLATE
CAME
AROUND
AGAIN.



NO,
IT CAME
BACK AS
"OTORO"!!

NO, AS
"TUNA"!

THE
"WACKER-
EL" CAME
BACK AS
"YELLOW-
TAIL"...

O-OH
YEAH,
SHU-
SEJO" !!

IN
JAPANESE,
THERE
ARE SOME
FISH THAT
CHANGE
NAMES OVER
TIME. WHAT
WERE THEY
CALLED
AGAIN?

WHAT IF, WHAT IF...
SINCE SHE LIVES WITH HER
PARENTS AND HER MOM DOES
ALL THE COOKING, SHE DOESN'T
KNOW A THING ABOUT FISH?

MAKE "CAREER FISH" BECAUSE THEY
GET "PROMOTED" AS THEY GROW.





YOU
WAIT
ONE
MINUTE,
GIRLY!

I'M
ABOUT TO
KNOCK ON
THE DOOR
AND GO
IN.

WHAT'S
EVERYONE
WHISPER-
ING ABOUT?



DON'T
WORRY!
WE'RE
ALREADY
HERE!

FOUR/
ALARM-
ER!!



YEAH, YOU
CAN'T TELL
HIM YOU
SPEND
EVERY
MORNING
WATCHING
THE SOAPS
AT HOME
WITH YOUR
MOTHER!!

PRE-
TEND
NONE
OF
THIS
HAP-
PENED !!

OKAY, EVEN
IF YOU HAVE
TO LIE, SAY
YOU'RE
HAPPY
NOW!!



WHAT AM I
GONNA DO?
WHAT AM I
GONNA DO?
WHAT AM I
GONNA DO?

WHAT
AM I
GONNA
DO?

WHAT'RE
YOU
GONNA
DO? WHAT
ARE YOU
GONNA
DO?

WHAT
ARE YOU
GONNA
DO,
KACCI
?!?!



...PLAYING
HIS GUITAR
ON STAGE...

WHEN
I SAW
HIM UP
THERE
...



NO...
I...

I CAN'T
LIE TO
RYO...

AT THE
VERY LEAST,
YOU'RE THE
YOUNGEST
AND PRETTI-
EST LOOK-
ING OUT OF
THE THREE
OF US!

IT'S OKAY,
KAORI! YOU
STILL LOOK
PRETTY
YOUNG FOR
33!

OUT
OF THE
THREE OF
US ?!
That's a
stupid
point!



I REAL-
IZED HE
WAS STILL
THE SAME
RYO...

...WHILE
I'VE...
...TURNED
INTO THIS...



TOKYO IS
SMALLER
THAN IT
LOOKS.



EXCUSE
ME!



I'M GOING
IN NOW!

OKAY !



COM-
ING!

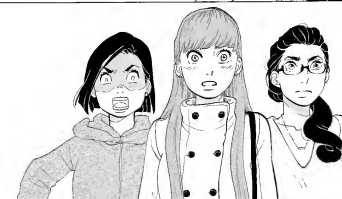
...BUT I
NEVER
IMAGINED IT
WOULD BE
LIKE THIS.

...TO RUN
INTO THE
MAN I
DUMPED SO
CRUELLY IN
THIS TOWN
AGAIN.

I KNEW
THAT
ONE
DAY...

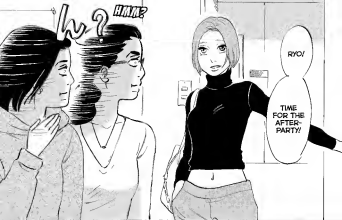














WHEN YOU
LET A PLATE
GET AWAY,
THE NEXT
PERSON
TAKES IT.



I DIDN'T
EVEN
UNDER-
STAND
THAT
SIMPLE
CONCEPT.



WHRRRRR...

THERE ARE
NO LONGER
ANY PLATES
ON MY
CONVEYOR.



MUSICIANS
SAY THE
WORDS "I
LOVE YOU"
AS EASY AS
THEY SING
SONGS.

DO YOU
GET IT
NOW, YOU
ASSHOLE?

WHRRRRR...

7A — 7 ...



...AND NOW YOU
WANT TO GET
BACK TOGETHER
BECAUSE HE HIT IT
BIG? IF YOU THINK
THAT'S GONNA FLY,
YOUR BRAIN MUST
BE SOFTER THAN
THE STALE
DESSERT CAKE
ON THE SUSHI
CONVEYOR!!
WHAT IF/
WHAT IF/

YOU
DUMPED HIM
BECAUSE
HE DIDN'T
SELL...

THEN
THIS IS
THE HAL-
LUCINATION
RINGO WAS
TALKING
ABOUT?

...ARE
TALK-
ING...

THE
MILT
AND
LIVER
...

DON'T
MAKE US
LAUGH/
WHAT IF/
WHAT IF/

...YOU
MIGHT HAVE
THOUGHT
YOU STILL
HAD A
CHANCE.
BUT...

WHEN
YOU SAW HIM
STRUMMING
HIS GUITAR
SO COOLLY
ON STAGE...

WE'RE
CALLING
YOU
SOFT
!!

SO
DOES
THAT
MAKE
ME
HARD
OR
SOFT?

HUH
?!

What if,
what if...
that
metaphor
was hard to
understand?
Oops...







WHO KNOWS?

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS WAITING FOR YOU?

...WHAT'S WAITING FOR US?

THEN ...

WHERE?



SHALL WE TAKE A GUESS?

HUH?!

WHAT IF, WHAT IF... YOU THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT YOU MEAN BY "STABLE"?

...WE COULDN'T ACHIEVE WHEN WE WERE YOUNG?

...AND STABLE LIFE...

THE KIND OF UNDERSTATED LOVE...



YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE WOMEN WHO JUDGE MEN BY NOTHING BUT THEIR STATUS.

WHAT IF, WHAT IF... THE ANSWER WAS MONEY AND FAME?

...ARE
THINGS I
ABSOLUTELY
CANNOT
ACQUIRE
NOW THAT
I'M OLDER.

I JUST
REALIZED THAT
THE THINGS I
TOSSED ASIDE
WITHOUT
A SECOND
THOUGHT
WHEN I WAS
YOUNG...

OTOH9
HTOO8

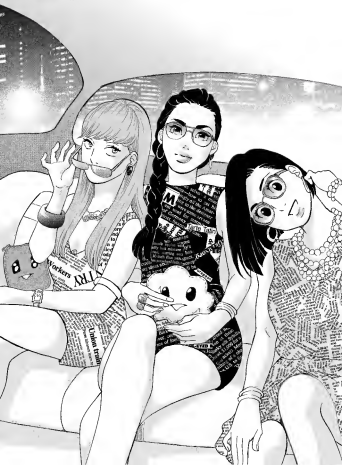
YOU
CAN'T
TURN
BACK
TIME.

I CAN'T
RETURN
TO THOSE
DAYS.

THE
WORLD
DIDN'T
END...

...AND
THE LANE
WE'RE ON
IS GOING
TO CON-
TINUE IN
THE SAME
DIRECTION.







I'VE AL-
WAYS BEEN
CALLED
A DIRECT
WOMAN.

と" BOOM ン





HEY,
YOU TWO.



WE'RE NOT
ACTUALLY
OPEN YET...



I
GOT OFF
EASIER
THAN
YOU! MY
EX JUST
GOT A
NEW GIRL-
FRIEND!
THAT'S
ALL!

STOP
WITH
THE
PITY!

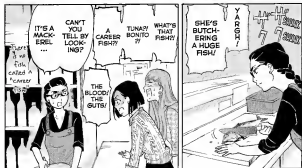
STOP
IT!

KAORI... YOU
POOR THING...
I CAN'T
BELIEVE WHAT
HAPPENED TO
YOU...

OH,
BOOZE,
MAKE ME
FORGET
THE
TEARS...

LET US
DRINK,
POPS...
SO?

I BLIND
IT!
I BLIND
IT!





...BUT
HAVE I
EVER
COOKED
FOR A
MAN I
LIKED?



THEY SAY
WOMEN
WHO CAN
COOK GET
ALL THE
GUYS...



COME
TO THINK
OF IT,
COOKING
FOR A
MAN
MEANS...

I ALWAYS
LOSE
INTEREST,
AND THE
RELATION-
SHIP ENDS
BEFORE
THAT.

THINGS
NEVER
GET TO
THAT
POINT.



...OR LIVE
TOGETHER.
OTHERWISE
IT CAN'T
BE DONE.

...INVITE
HIM TO
YOURS...

...YOU
HAVE TO
GO INTO
HIS HOUSE
AND
USE HIS
KITCHEN...

BUT...



...KIND OF
DISGUSTS
ME.

...OR
KEEPING
HIM FROM
LEAVING
WITH
COOK-
ING...

THE
WHOLE
CONCEPT
OF
BAGGING
A MAN...



I DON'T
WANT TO
BECOME THE
TYPE OF
WOMAN WHO
DILIGENTLY
COOKS BEEF
STEW FOR
HER MAN.

I WANT
TO EAT
OUT ON
A DATE!

I
DON'T
WANT TO
EVEN SET
FOOT IN A
KITCHEN
AFTER
WORK!

I MEAN,
WE LIVE IN
TOKYO, WHERE
THERE'S TONS
OF GREAT
RESTAURANTS,
AFTER
ALL...

I ABSO-
LUTELY
REFUSE TO
CARRY HOME
COOKING IN A
TUPPERWARE
CONTAINER
TO A MAN'S
HOUSE.

I WANT
A MORE
METRO-
POLITAN
KIND OF
RELATION-
SHIP.

JUST
GIVE
THEM A
BOTTLED
BEER
AND IT'LL
BE FINE.

I'LL BE
RIGHT
BACK!

WHAT
ARE WE
SUPPOSED
TO DO IF A
CUSTOMER
SHOWS
UP?

HUH
?!

I'VE
GOTTA RUN
TO THE
SUPER-
MARKET.
WATCH THE
PLACE FOR
ME!

(SORRY!)

I FOR-
GOT TO
ORDER
SHISO.

CRAP!

OH!

HEY!











THEY
KNOW
BETTER
THAN TO
LEAVE
THE
PLACE
EMPTY—

WHERE'D
THEY
RUN OFF
TO?!



WHOA!! NO
ONE'S HERE
AT ALL!!
WHERE THE
HELL ARE
RINKO AND
KAORI???



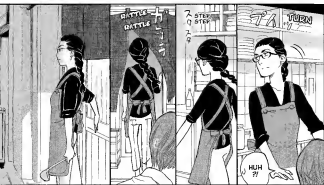






ALL
RIGHT/
THEN
WE'RE
HAVING
A 30%
DRINKING
PARTY!!







NOW THAT I'VE
GOTTEN A GOOD
LOOK AT HIM,
HIS FACE AND
PERSONALITY
ARE JUST...

BINGO! RIGHT IN
MY STRIKE ZONE!
WHAT'S GOING ON
HERE? IS THIS
REALLY HAPPEN-
ING? HUH? IS
THIS REALLY
HAPPENING?





**THE WAY HE
CALLED IT
"TASTY," THE WAY
HE STARTED HIS
ODEN WITH THE
HARD-BOILED
EGG... HE'S
ABSOLUTELY
MY TYPE!!**



We have an
emergency.

emergency.

That guy is
just my type.



I need five minutes
to apply foundation,
mascara, and gloss,
so don't let him leave
until I get back!!



W-W-W-What
should we do?



Give us your
orders!



TAKE
YOUR
TIME
TODAY.

YEAH
...

OH.

WE'RE
BUYING
TODAY,
MISTER!
SO YOU
CAN STAY
LONGER,
CAN'T
YOU?

WE'LL
MAKE
SURE
YOU
HAVE A
GOOD
TIME.



OH.

SO HER
NAME IS
KOYUKI?

THAT...

SHE JUST
PERFECTLY
BUTCHERED
THIS HUGE...
MACKEREL?
TO MAKE IT!!
JUST NOW!!

THE
WOMAN
WHO
JUST
LEFT!!
HER
NAME'S
KOYUKI!!

OH.

I
LOVE
IT.

HEY, I
KNOW!
LET'S
DRINK
UNTIL THE
SOUSED
MACKEREL
IS READY!!

DO YOU
LIKE
SOUSED
MACK-
EREL?





IT'S
HERE?



The man of
your dreams!!

OUT OF
NO-
WHERE?

IT'S
FINALLY
HERE?

HIS
GES-
TURES
...

SURE, IT'S
PARTLY
THAT YOU
LIKE HIS
FACE, BUT
THAT'S
NOT ALL.

...WHEN
A WOMAN
KNOWS SHE
CAN LOVE
SOMEONE
WITH A
SINGLE
LOOK.

THERE
ARE
TIMES
...

HIS
VOICE
...

THE
MORE
IMPOR-
TANT
THINGS
ARE....





THERE
ARE
TIMES
WHEN ALL
THOSE
THINGS
GRAB
YOU IN AN
INSTANT.

THE
ATMO-
SPHERE
HE GIVES
OFF...

HIS
BEARING

THE
WAY HE
TALKS



HELL, I'VE
EVEN HAD
THEM WITH
OTHER
WOMEN.



I'VE HAD
MOMENTS
LIKE THAT
WHEN I
SAW AN
ACTOR
ON TV.



SHING

HIS
TYPE
TOO!!

SAYS
I'M!!

PLUS,
THIS
GUY!!



...NEVER
REALLY IN
PERSON,
WITH MEN
OF MAR-
RIAGEABLE
AGE.

BUT...



AND
ACHIEVE
SOME
PER-
FECTLY
NORMAL
HAPPI-
NESS!!

I WANNA
GO OUT
WITH A
NORMAL
MAN, EVEN
IF HE'S
A LITTLE
PLAIN!!

I'M NOT
LIKE
THOSE
OTHER
TWO!!



JUST A
NORMAL,
AVERAGE
SALARY-
MAN!!
OLDER
THAN ME!!
35!!

AND
HE'S NOT
A MODEL
OR A
MUSICIAN
!!

THE
REAL-
ITY
LINE!!



THUMP



COME
BACK,
KOYUKI!
!!
EEBK
!!

SHE'S
COM-
ING!!



PARDON
THE
DELAY.







A CUTE
MAN WHO
JUST
BEGS
TO BE
SPOILED.

SMILE
= 3

HE'S
POLITE,
BUT
STILL
WARM.

YOSHIO
MARUI.

I'M
YOSHIO.

HE'S AN
ADULT,
BUT STILL
INNOCENT.

...IF I
ASK
YOUR
NAME?

DO
YOU
MIND
...

...EVERY
DAY.

IF YOU
START
TALKING
LIKE THAT,
I'M GOING
TO BE
HERE...

THEN
I'LL SAVE
THAT SEAT
FOR YOU
TOMOR-
ROW...

...MR.
MARUI.

THIS
FEELS
LIKE THE
BEGINNING
OF A NEW
LOVE.

I'LL KEEP
THAT SEAT
RESERVED
FOR YOU.

THAT'S
PERFECTLY
FINE.

...UNTIL
HE COM-
PLETELY
FALLS
IN LOVE
WITH ME.

...AND
ALOOF

I'VE GOT
TO STAY
CALM...

BUT
DON'T
LET
YOUR-
SELF
GET EX-
CITED.



YOUR
SOUSED
MACK-
EREL IS
READY
TOO.

THAT'S A
GROWN
WOMAN'S
PATH TO
VICTORY.

I'VE GOT
TO PLAY
THIS DRY
AND OPEN.



THAT'S
VERY
ADMIRA-
BLE IN A
YOUNG
MAN.

I SAW
YOU
VISITING A
GRAVE AT
AOYAMA
CEMETERY
TODAY.

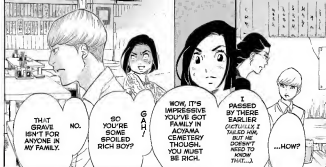
Here's
your
order

HEY,
YOU

THAT'S
RIGHT

OH.







WOW... ..



THAT'S
HIS
REAL
NAME.

KAGITANI.
IT'S WHY
HE'S
CALLED
"KEY."

HUH?



What's
that?

KAGI-
TANI?

HUH?

I
KNOW!
YOU
MUST BE
FANS OF
KAGITANI
TOO!!



YOU
HEAR
THAT?
YOU'VE
GOT A
SHOT,
RINKO!!

HE
DOES
?!

WHAT
?!

I GUESS
HE REALLY
DOES LIKE
OLDER
CHICKS.

HUH?
YOU
BANGED
HIM?

NO... NO,
I DON'T...
PLEASE,
JUST...
STOP
TALKING
ABOUT
HIM...



DON'T
SAY
STUFF
LIKE
THAT!!

STOP
IT!!

THAT'S
THE
KIND OF
NIGHT
IT WAS
AT THE
PUB.

SHE
FINALLY
LEARNS
THE NAME
OF THE
MAN SHE
BANGED...



OH,
NOT AT
ALL. IT'S
A LIVELY
PLACE.

I'M
SORRY
THEY'RE
SO LOUD.

COULD I
GET MY
CHECK?



GASP



WHOA!!
RYO!!
GIVE ME
SOME
MORE
DETAILS
ABOUT
THAT!!

I KINDA
REMEMBER
HIM TALKING
LIKE HE
DATED AN
OLDER CHICK
ONCE.







SO YOU
MOVE
FORWARD
RELIABLY,
ONE
SQUARE
AT A TIME.

IT'S LIKE
YOU'RE
TALKING
ABOUT
NOTHING IN
PARTICULAR

...



ESPE-
CIALLY
WHEN YOU
DRINK.



ADULT
RELATION-
SHIPS
MOVE
FAST.



NOW,
COME
ON.

CHATTING
WITH YOU
IS KIND
OF FUN,
KOYUKI.

GOSH
...



HIS
PROFILE
MAKES HIM
LOOK LIKE
A COMBINA-
TION OF AN
ADULT AND
A CHILD.

WAIT.
AH-HH,
THAT
FACE.



COME
TO ME!

I'M
HAVING
FUN
TALKING
WITH YOU
TOO, MR.
MARUI.



CAN WE
MEET
ALONE
AGAIN
SOME-
TIME?



KOYU-
KI...

I
CAN'T
FIGHT
IT...

HE'S
TOTALLY
MY
TYPE...



BA-DUMP

ド
キ
ン

...I
THOUGHT
YOU WERE
BEAUTI-
FUL.

...SAW
YOU
COOKING
TODAY...

WHEN
I...

OF
COURSE
...



SURE
IT IS.



...IF
THIS
TURNS
INTO
ONE OF
THOSE
NIGHTS?

THEN,
IS IT
ALL
RIGHT
...



...I LIKE
YOUR
FACE
TOO.

ACTU-
ALLY...

A
LOT.



I'M
MARRIED.
DO YOU
MIND?



OH, IS
THAT
WHAT
THIS
IS?

BUT
I'LL GIVE UP
ON IT IF YOU
DON'T LIKE
IT.

BUT MY
WIFE AND
I LIVE
SEPA-
RATELY.

I DON'T
PLAN TO
LIE TO HER
OR HIDE
IT.

AM I
DRUNK?

HMM?

HE'S A KIND
MAN WHO
PUT THE
CHOICE IN
MY HANDS BY
TELLING ME
THE TRUTH.

BUT HE
WAS
UPFRONT
ABOUT
IT. HE'S
HONEST.

THAT'S RIGHT.
WOMEN WHO
THINK THEY'RE
GROWNUPS
WITH THEIR
LIVES ON
TRACK.
WHAT IF/
WHAT IF!

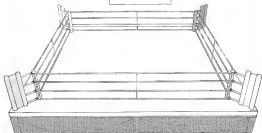
WHAT IF/
WHAT IF...
WOMEN LIKE
YOU ARE
THE MOST
DANGEROUS
KIND.

I SEE
STRANGE
THINGS
FLOATING
ABOVE ME.





NOW, THE
STARTING
BELL HAS
RUNG.



WHAT
HAP-
PENED?

SO?









...

WELL...

IT'S AN AFFAIR.



YOU'RE KIDDING ...

HA!

KAO-RI...



HUH?!

YOU DIDN'T?!

ACTUALLY, THAT NIGHT RYO GOT SO DRUNK, I ALSO...KIND OF...



YOU MUST THINK I'M SCUM.





AHHH!

THIS
SMELL
TAKES
ME
BACK...



HEY!
CUT IT
OUT!

Y
A
R
G
H!

KAORI!

UGH

YOU'VE
GOTTA
WALK
RIGHT!

COME
ON,
RYO!

GRAB



SHE'S
IN NEW
YORK
RIGHT
NOW.

OH,
DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
HER.

NO
ONE'S
COMING!
I'M SO
LONELY!

HUH
?!

HEIRE
?!



COME
UP FOR
A WHILE,
KAORI!

HEY!

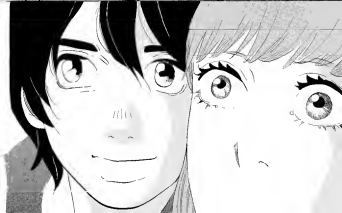
WHA
?!

WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?
WHAT IF
YOUR
GIRL-
FRIEND
SHOWS
UP?!



THIS IS
YOUR
SMELL....









IN THIS
CITY
CALLED
TOKYO...



WOMEN-
TARY...



SWEET
DREAMS.

HAPPY
DREAMS.



...WE ARE
ALWAYS
DREAM-
ING.



...FLEETING
DREAMS.

IF IT WAS
SUPPOSED
TO BE
SARCASM,
I WISH
THEY'D
CUT IT
OUT.

WHY DID OUR
ANCESTORS
GIVE IT THAT
SYMBOL?

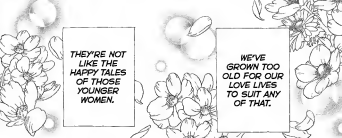
IN JAPANESE,
THE SYMBOL
FOR "FLEETING"
IS WRITTEN AS
"A PERSON'S
DREAM."











THEY'RE NOT
LIKE THE
HAPPY TALES
OF THOSE
YOUNGER
WOMEN.

WE'VE
GROWN TOO
OLD FOR OUR
LOVE LIVES
TO SUIT ANY
OF THAT.



BUT
WE USED TO
TALK WITH
HIGH-PITCHED
VOICES JUST
LIKE THOSE
GIRLS.

THEY
ARE
DEEP.

YOU'RE
RIGHT.

IN THE
FIRST
PLACE,
OUR
VOICES
ARE
TOO
DEEP.

FOR
THAT.



A-

A-

...THAT
WAS A
VALIANT
AT-TEMPT
TO CHANGE
THE
SUB-JECT!!
BUT!!

WAS
IT?

AND IT
WASN'T
LATTES
WHEN WE
WERE 20.
IT WAS
CAFE AU
LAIT...

WE'D
PRATTLE ON
LIKE A TRIO
OF SCHOOL-
GIRLS OVER
OUR MILLE
CREPES

WE
DID. WE
DEFI-NITELY
DID.

MILLE
CREPES
...

THE
TIMES!!
THEY'RE
CHANG-
ING!!



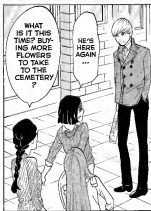


STOP
THAT.
YOU'RE
MAKING A
SCENE.



THEY ALL
THINK
YOU'RE
A BUNCH
OF CRAZY
WOMEN
YELLING
"SEX! SEX!"
ON ADYAMA
STREET IN
BROAD
DAY-
LIGHT.

EVERY-
ONE'S
WATCH-
ING.



WHAT
IS IT
THIS
TIME? BUY-
ING MORE
FLOWERS
TO TAKE
TO THE
CEMETERY
?

HE'S
HERE
AGAIN
...





HEY!
NOT SO FAST!

YOU BRAT!

IS IT PUBERTY?

AH!
HE DID IT AGAIN!

...



WELL...

YEAH!
WE'RE ALL
REGULARS
OF THE
SAME PUB!

WH-
WHAT'S
YOUR
PROBLEM?
CAN'T
WE
CHAT A
LITTLE
?



HUH?!

YOU
CAN HAVE
IT IF YOU
WANT IT.

WHY
WOULD
THEY GET
CRUSHED?

WH-

THEY
LOOKED
LIKE THEY
WERE
ABOUT
TO BE
CRUSHED.

I JUST
THOUGHT I'D
BUY SOME
FLOWERS
WHEN I
PASSED THAT
FLORIST.





MR. MODEL'S DEFINITELY HIDING SOMETHING.

KAORI, WHY DON'T YOU ASK YOUR EX?

DEFINITELY. IT'S JUST A STONE'S THROW FROM HERE.

I DON'T GET HIM. WHY DOES HE HIDE IT? HE'S GOTTA BE GOING TO THE CEMETERY ANYWAY, RIGHT?

YEEESH ...



YOU'RE REALLY ASKING ABOUT THAT?

HUH?



HUH?!

AN OLD FLAME?

...AN OLD FLAME.

WELL, I'D SAY IT'S PROBABLY...

WHAT'S THAT ALL ABOUT?

OH! THEN YOU DO KNOW?







USH! LOOK
AT THAT
ENORMOUS
GRIN!

Don't you
go "I'm
thirsty!", you
dude!

YEAH!

I'M
THIRSTY!



DO YOU
WANT A
BEER?

HOW DO
YOU LOOK
HAPPY
WITHOUT
LETTING IT
SHOW?

KOYUKI
LOOKS
SO HAPPY,
BUT SHE
DOESN'T
LET IT
SHOW!



THIS MAY BE
AN AFFAIR,
BUT THERE'S
STILL LOVE
THERE...

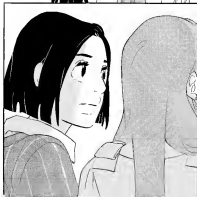
...I'M NOT
JEALOUS,
BUT I KIND
OF AM...

USH
...



Here
Drink
up!

Turns
out!



Here,
we have
instead
veggies
today!

Hurray!
☆



...QUIETLY
WATCHING MY
BEST FRIEND
START A RE-
LATIONSHIP
THAT CAN
ONLY END IN
TEARS.

I'M
JUST A
LOSER
...

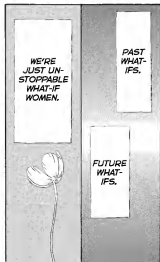


BOTH KOYUKI
AND I ARE
PROBABLY
PLANNING TO
SAY MORE
"WHAT-IFS."



...I
GUESS
THAT'S
NOT
RIGHT.

NO...



WE'RE
JUST UN-
STOPPABLE
WHAT-IF
WOMEN.

PAST
WHAT-
IFS.

FUTURE
WHAT-
IFS.



WHAT
IF HE
LEAVES
HIS
WIFE?

WHAT
IF HE
MARRIES
ME IN-
STEAD?

WE
CAN'T QUIT
DRINKING
AND COM-
PLAINING.

WE CAN'T
QUIT
DREAMING.

WE KNOW
THAT, BUT
WE JUST
CAN'T
QUIT.



WE CAN'T
QUIT BEING
WOMEN.

....WE
JUST
CAN'T.

EVEN
IF WE
WANTED
TO...



SHE
WAS SO
YOUNG.

I
WONDER
HOW
THAT
GIRL
DIED?

I
GUESS
HE'S
BEEN
THROUGH
A LOT
TOO.



OH.



BUT IT'S
STRANGE.

AHHH
...



ILLNESS?
AN ACCI-
DENT?

EITHER
WAY,
THAT'S
SO SAD.



...WE
GOT
NAKED
AND DID
THAT...

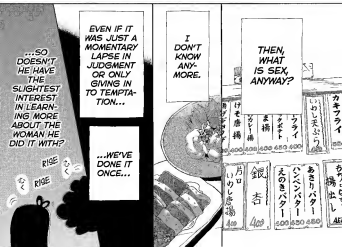
...YOU
KNOW...

WE'VE
DONE
THAT...



...BUT I
DON'T
KNOW A
THING
ABOUT
HIM.

AND HE
DOESN'T
KNOW A
THING
ABOUT
ME.



...SO
DOESN'T
HE HAVE
THE
SLIGHTEST
INTEREST
IN LEARN-
ING MORE
ABOUT THE
WOMAN HE
DID IT WITH?

EVEN IF IT
WAS JUST A
MOMENTARY
LAPSE IN
JUDGMENT
OR ONLY
GIVING IN
TO TEMPTA-
TION...

...WE'VE
DONE IT
ONCE...

I
DON'T
KNOW
ANY-
MORE.

THEN,
WHAT
IS SEX,
ANYWAY?

RISE

RISE

銀杏 400

えのきバター 400

あさりバター 450

ちりめん 450

片ロ 400

いぬし唐揚げ 400

けぞ唐揚げ 400

ま橋 450

カキフライ 450

いぬし天ぷら 450

450





...THAT'S
JUST
MISOGYNY!

BUT...
BUT
THAT'S
...

...ARE
JUST
CORNER-
MEN FOR
THEIR
FAMILIES?

WHAT IF,
WHAT IF...EVEN
THE MARRIED
WOMEN WHO
ARE STILL
IN THE RING
WITH THEIR
CAREERS...

TH-THAT'S
RIDICULOUS/
THERE'S
STILL PLENTY
OF WOMEN
WORKING
OUT THERE
EVEN AFTER
THEY GET
MARRIED!

I'M NOT
BEAT-UP!

SHUT
UP!

WHAT IF,
WHAT IF...
IT'S EVEN
HARDER
TO STAY
IN THE RING?

HOW
COULD
THAT BE
ANYONE'S
DREAM?!

THAT'S
BORING!

I DON'T
WANT TO
BE SOME-
ONE'S
CORNER-
MAN!

IF YOU
DON'T
FOLLOW
UP AFTER
YOU'VE
SLEPT WITH
A GUY,
YOU'LL TURN
INTO JUST
ANOTHER
BEAT-UP
WOMAN...

WHAT IF,
WHAT IF...
YOU'LL LOSE
THE MATCH
IF YOU
DON'T KEEP
THROWING
PUNCHES?

...IN
THE
MOMENT
...FOR
THAT
ONE
MOMENT
...
I
REALLY
FELT
LIKE
I WAS
LOVED!

EVEN
IF WE
DIDN'T
KNOW
ANYTHING
ABOUT
EACH
OTHER...

HOW
WERE
YOU
HAPPY?

OH?

IN THAT
MOMENT,
I WAS
REALLY
HAPPY!

YOU
THREE
AREN'T
LOVED.

HUH?!

WHAT IF,
WHAT IF...
IT ISN'T?

ISN'T
IT?!

ISN'T
THAT
WHAT
SEX
IS?!

...THEN,
IN THE
RINGS...

WHAT IF,
WHAT IF...
THE THREE OF
YOU ALWAYS
GET STRUNG
ALONG BY
THAT WORD,
"LOVE"...

THAT
WAS NOT
AN ACT
OF LOVE.

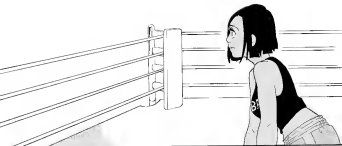
...AND GET
BEATEN TO
A PULP?

...YOU
TURN INTO
PUNCHING
BAGS...





WHAT IF,
WHAT IF...
YOU OUGHT
TO HAVE
REALIZED
THAT BY
NOW?
YOU'RE
33!



STAY
AWAY...

KOYU-
KI...

...FROM
THAT
GUY.



KAORI.

WAKE
UP.

HE
DOESN'T
LOVE YOU
ANYMORE.



AND I'M
THE ONE
WHO NEEDS
A WAKE-UP
CALL THE
MOST.



I GOT A
CAST-OFF
BOUQUET
HE BOUGHT
FOR HIS
DEAD GIRL-
FRIEND...



THERE'S NO
WAY A MAN A
FULL DECADE
MY JUNIOR
WOULD LOVE
ME.

YEP.



...BUT I'M
SO STUPID
THAT IT
STILL MADE
ME A LITTLE
BIT HAPPY.

WE'RE NOTHING
MORE THAN
A HANDFUL
OF PITIFUL,
PUNCH-DRUNK
FIGHTERS WHO
CAN'T GET OUT
OF THE RING.







SPECIAL CHAPTER

CHOCOLATE IS ALWAYS SWEET TO ME

*This comic was originally drawn for 2015 Takashimaya Amour du Chocolate!

ト 2

WHOOOOOSH

ハ ハ ハ

FOR THE
THREE OF
US, WHO
NEVER
CATCH A
BREAK AT
WORK OR
IN LOVE...

REAL-
ITY...

...IS
NEVER
THAT
SWEET.

IT'S
PROBABLY
GONNA SNOW
TONIGHT.

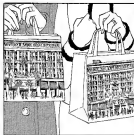
MY FEET
ARE FREEZ-
ING!

AHHH/ I
SHOULD'VE
WORN MY
SHEEPSKIN
BOOTS!

IT'S
SO COLD!

...THIS
SEASON
IS FULL OF
HARD-
SHIPS.

WINTER





MINAMI-
ONJIMA
CITY
SNOW
FESTI-
VAL?

OH, YOU
MEAN
GOMWAI
P

NO, I'M
TALKING
ABOUT VALENTINE'S
DAY



THE
SAP-
PORO
SNOW
FESTI-
VAL?

OH,
HARI-
KUYO?

HUH?
WHAT?

ISN'T
THIS
WEEK-
END...

HEY.
COME TO
THINK
OF IT...



YOU'RE
TALKING
ABOUT VALENTINE'S
DAY,
RIGHT?
P!

OF
COURSE
HE
KNOW!!

YOU KNOW
WHAT I'M
TALKING
ABOUT,
DON'T
YOU?

...ARE
YOU
DOING
THAT
ON PUR-
POSE?



HUH
?!

HEY,
THAT'S
RIGHT. WE
DO HAVE
THE ONE
HUNK.

SPEAK-
ING OF
REGU-
LARS...

WAIT
...

Just
give out
dried
squad!

YEAH/
AND OUR
ONLY GUY
FRIENDS
ARE THE
ELDERLY
REGULARS
AT THE
PUB!!

WE'RE
ALL
STILL
SINGLE!!

WHAT'S
IT GOT
TO DO
WITH
US?!



GETTING
CHOCOLATES
FROM YOU
HASS
DOESN'T
MAKE ME
HAPPY IN
THE LEAST.

HUM?
CHOCO-
LATES?



HE MAY
BE HAND-
SOME,
BUT HE'S
GOT
JUST THE
WORST
PERSON-
ALITY...

NO
WAY! I
HATE
THAT
GUY!!

HE'S
YOUNG
AND HE
LET'S
IT GO
TO HIS
HEAD...
HE'S AN
ENEMY
TO ALL
SO-SOME-
THING
WOMEN!!

KEY
OCCUPATION:
MODEL



*I HATE
COLD
WINTERS*
...



WE'LL AT
LEAST BE
ABLE
TO GET A
LITTLE
TASTE OF
THE
VALENTINE'S
SPIRIT BY
GIVING
CHOCOLATES
TO A HOT,
POPULAR
MODEL.

NO, NO.
EVEN HE
WOULDN'T
GO THAT
FAR.

THAT'S
WHAT
HE'LL
SAY TO
US! I
JUST
KNOW
IT!!

YEAH,
THAT
SOUNDS
NICE.
LET'S GET
A TASTE,
EVEN IF
WE HAVE
TO FAKE
IT.



...I WAS
REMINDING
THAT THERE
ARE SOME
SEAS YOU
CAN ONLY
FIND DURING
THE COLO
MONTHS.

BUT FOR
THE FIRST
TIME IN A
WHILE...



OH MAN,
THIS ONE
THAT'S
COVERED
IN NUTS
LOOKS
SOOO
GOOD!

LOOK AT
THIS ONE!
IT'S SO
PRETTY! IT
LOOKS LIKE
A FANCY
BROOCH!

WOW,
CHOCOLATES
THESE DAYS
ARE REALLY
IMPRES-
SIVE...

W-





SINCE I
STOPPED
GETTING
EXCITED
ABOUT
VALENTINE'S
DAY?



SINCE I
STARTED
HATING
WINTER?



HOW
LONG
HAS IT
BEEN...



LET'S
GET LATTES
AND EAT
THEM OVER
THERE,
ON THAT
BENCH.



AH.



...AND ALL
SORTS OF
THINGS, IN
ROMANCE
AND OUR
CAREERS,
STOPPED
GOING
RIGHT...

...BUT
AT SOME
POINT WE
BECAME
ADULTS...

IN OUR
TEENS, WE
BOUGHT
CHOCO-
LATES FOR
THE BOYS
WE LIKED
EVERY
YEAR...



CHOMP



SNOW...

GAH !!

THIS
SUCKS !!







THEN I'LL
BUY SOME
CHAM-
PAÑNE AND
BE READY
ON THE
14TH.



...I'D
LIKE TO
EAT THESE
WITH SOME
CHAMPAGNE.

YOU
KNOW
...

HEY.

YOU
KNOW
YOUR
STUFF,
KID.



WANT
SOME?

YOU
SEXY
JERK
...

YOU
SHOWED
UP YET
AGAIN,
WITH
PERFECT
TIMING...



HUH??



THE
MAGIC OF
VALENTINE'S
TURNS OUR
BITTER LIVES
SWEET FOR
JUST ONE
DAY.



...THAT
MAY HAVE
GOTTEN TO
ME A
LITTLE
BIT.

OH
MAN
...

I
HATE TO
ADMIT
IT, BUT
IT DID
SET MY
HEART
AFLUT-
TER.



TRY NOT
TO EAT
THEM ALL
BEFORE
THEN.

SEE
YA.

BONUS COMIC



ABOUT THE WHAT-IF REACTION

2015



WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU WRITING??

THIS IS AWFUL!!

HEY, MS. HIGASHIMURA!

AND THE SINGLE LADIES IN THE EDITING DEPARTMENT AS WELL....

HEY, WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE WRITING?

AND MY SINGLE FRIENDS AS WELL...

AND EVEN MY NEW YEAR'S CARDS...

I'VE GOTTA FIND SOMEONE, ANYONE TO MARRY IN THE NEXT YEAR.

I'M A MAN, BUT IT BURNED ME OUT...

AND AMONG THEM...

THIS'LL BE TURNED INTO A TV SHOW, RIGHT? YOU'VE GOT YOUR FINGER ON THE PULSE OF THE TIMES!

HEY, THIS IS GOOD.

THE HOUSE-WIFE TEAM PUTS ON A COMPOSED POSTURE.

WHAT-IF GIRLS IS AWFUL. I'M GONNA GET MARRIED THIS YEAR IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO. 2015

I'm telling you, that's the wrong way to find!

What was that about?

YUKKO

YARGH!

THE FACT THAT YOU'RE STILL TRYING TO GO OUT ON GIRLS' NIGHTS OUT IS EXACTLY THE PROBLEM WITH YOU PEOPLE!!

SNAP

Ms. Higashimura!

Let's go drinking...

I can go anywhere this week!! I've got all the time in the world!!

I've got nothing on my schedule either.

AND EVERYONE TELLS ME THIS OVER LINE.

AND THE FEMALE DIRECTOR OF A CERTAIN TELEVISION PROGRAM WAS THERE...

00000000



SINCE WE READ WHAT-IF GIRLS, WE'VE BEEN TOO WORRIED TO SLEEP!!

SEN-SEI!!

THE OTHER DAY, I WAS INVITED TO A GROUP OF PERFORMERS' WHAT-IF MEETING.

...BUT I STILL GO DRINKING WITH THEM.



THE PERFORMERS HELPED ME.

MAAO LOOKS LIKE ME. Mr. Higashimura



AND BECAUSE OF HER, I DRANK TOO MUCH WITH THEM AND COLLAPSED AT EBISU YOKOCHO...



I GET THE FEELING SHE'S THE LEAST LIKELY TO GET MARRIED ...

...ME SOME MEN!

I LOO-OVE ...

I LOVE MEN!!

HIHE-HIH!

YOU KNOW WHAT?

HUNKS!

Don't → don't always believe things you hear



IT'S OKAY TO JUST GIVE UP ON ALL SORTS OF THINGS! YOU KNOW?

DON'T LET IT GET YOU DOWN! YOU'LL BE FINE! ISN'T ALL YOU NEED SOME BOOZE?

SO LISTEN UP, EVERYONE!

ARE FUN!!

GIRLS' NIGHTS OUT!!

BUT I LEARNED ONE THING!!

WE DRINK!!

THERE'S NO GETTING AROUND IT!!

AND I ALREADY KNEW IT!!

BUT DON'T DRINK TOO MUCH!



THIS DISH WITH THE ICE CREAM AND DARK SYRUP ON SWEET POTATOES IS FRIGGIN' GOOD !!





TOKYO TARAREBA GIRLS VOLUME 2 TRANSLATION NOTES

ABOUT THE NAME: "TARAREBA" MEANS "WHAT-IF," LIKE THE "WHAT-IF" STORIES YOU TELL YOURSELF ABOUT WHAT *COULD* BE OR *COULD* HAVE BEEN.

P029

FROM A FAMOUS POP SONG BY KANA NISHINO, WHO DEBUTED IN 2008.



P030

OSUGI IS A FAMOUS GAY PERFORMER AND MOVIE CRITIC WHO ALSO PERFORMS WITH HIS TWIN BROTHER, PEECO. BOTH ARE KNOWN FOR BEING RATHER BLUNT, AS THE QUOTE SUGGESTS.



P142

LYRICS FROM THE 1993 SINGLE "ROAD" BY THE ROCK BAND THE TRA-BRYU, WHICH DEBUTED IN 1982, BUT IS STILL AROUND TODAY.



P162: HARI-KUYO

"THE FESTIVAL OF BROKEN NEEDLES", WHERE NEEDLES BROKEN IN THE PAST YEAR ARE LAID TO REST AT SHRINES.



P162: SAPPORO SNOW FESTIVAL

A "NAKED FESTIVAL" HELD IN IWATE DURING WINTER. MEN STRIP DOWN, SPLASH THEMSELVES WITH WATER, AND CLIMB THE LOCAL MOUNTAIN. DESPITE THE NAME, MANY PARTICIPANTS WEAR A FUNDOSHI LOINCLOTH.

P162: MINAMIUONUMA CITY SNOW FESTIVAL

ANOTHER ANNUAL EVENT AT WHICH THE PEOPLE ENJOY PLAYING IN THE SNOW.



Tokyo Tarareba Girls 2

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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